# MOITUTITEMI

FOR THE

# CHINESE BLIND

Incorporated under the Companies' Ordinance (Mongkong) 1911

# 盲 童 學 堂

Mang t'ung hsioh t'ang

No. 4 Edinburgh Road SHANGHAI CHINA

Fifth Annual Report

1916-1917



## INSTITUTION FOR THE CHINESE BLIND

## Incorporated under the Companies' Ordinance (Hongkong) 1911

#### FOUNDER

Dr. John Fryer.

#### OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

Dr. S. I. Woodbridge, Chairman.

Mr. Geo. Lanning, Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Geo. B. Fryer, Secretary.

Mr. R. Ure Hummel, Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. C. M. Myers, Hon. Auditor.

Mr. Chu Shao Ping, Financial Agent.

#### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Mr. Ernest Box Miss Susie M. Burdick

Mr. Chung Mun Yew Dr. Emily Garner

Dr. Fong F. Sec Mr. Geo. Lanning

Mr. R. URE HUMMEL Dr. F. L. HAWKS POTT

Dr. A. P. PARKER Mr. A. S. P. WHITE-COOPER

Dr. S. I. WOODBRIDGE Dr. WU TING FANG

#### SUPERINTENDENT AND HEAD MASTER

Mr. Geo. B. Fryer

#### **ASSISTANTS**

Mr. Ho Chih Tseu, Assistant Teacher.

Mr. Wang, Assistant Teacher.

Mr. Lan Ting Mei, General and Office.

Mrs. Cheng, Kindergarten and Matron.

Mr. Hsü Hsioh Li, Industrial.

Mr. Chang Lien Ching, Music.

#### ATTENDING PHYSICIAN





GROUP OF PUPILS



A NEW PUPIL'S HOME



THE SAND-BOX

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTION

HE Third Annual Meeting of the members of the Institution for the Chinese Blind was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. S. I. Woodbridge, at 5.15 p.m., on Tuesday the 22nd May at No. 18, Peking Road.

Present.—Dr. Woodbridge (Chairman), Mr. R. Ure Hummel (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. Geo. B. Fryer (Secretary), Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott, Dr. Fong F. Sec, Dr. Emily Garner, Miss Burdick, Mrs. Fryer, and Messrs. White-Cooper, Lanning, Box, and P. K. Chu. Mr. Chung Mun Yew was unable to attend but sent a representative.

Proceedings of Second Annual Meeting.—The proceedings of the Second Annual Meeting were read and approved.

Superintendent's Report.—The report of the Superintendent for the past year was read and accepted and ordered to be printed.

Treasurer's Report.—The report of the Hon. Treasurer was read and accepted and ordered to be printed.

Reports of Sub-committees.—A report of a sub-committee to investigate the running expenses of the Institution and one on Finances were read and accepted and a vote of thanks was tendered to those who had spent a great deal of time in making their investigations.

Superintendent's Furlough.—The Superintendent Mr. Geo. B. Fryer and Mrs. Fryer were authorized to proceed to America as soon as the present term ended, for a period of six months or more. A letter having been received from the Board of Education at Peking asking Mr. Fryer to prepare a report of the results of his investigations into the work of the blind and deaf in America, he was instructed to prepare such a report for the Board of Education, visiting as many institutions and other work for the blind and deaf as necessary to make a complete report. Mrs. S. E. Couling will live on the premises and overlook the working of the Institution during the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Fryer.

Officers for the ensuing Year.—The following officers were elected.

Chairman.—Dr. S. I. Woodbridge.

Vice-Chairman.—Mr. George Lanning.

Secretary.—Mr. Geo. B. Fryer.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. R. Ure Hummel.

Hon. Auditor.—Rev. C. M. Myers.

Committee of Management.—Mr. Ernest Box, Miss Susie M. Burdick, Mr. Chun Mun Yew, Dr. Emily Garner, Dr. Fong F. Sec, Mr. R. Ute Hummel, Mr. George Lanning, Dr. A. P. Parker, Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott, Mr. A. S. P. White-Cooper, Dr. S. I. Woodbridge, Dr. Wu Ting Fang.

The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer, and also to Mr. R. D. Stafford for auditing the books.

Adjournment.—The meeting adjourned at 6.35 p.m.

GEO. B. FRYER,

Secretary.

# Members of the Institution

Begg, Rev. T. D.
Box, Rev. Ernest.
Burdick, Miss Susie M.
Chung Mun Yew, Mr.
Fryer, Mr. G. B.
Fryer, Dr. John.
Garner, Dr. Emily.
Hummel, Mr. Gerald.
Lanning, Mr. George.
Myers, Rev. C. M.
Pott, Dr. F. L. Hawks.
Tang Shao Yi, Mr.
Wong, Mr. C. T.

Wu Ting Fang, Dr.
Bondfield, Dr. G. H.
Brockman, Mr. F. S.
Chun Fai Ting, Mr.
Fong F. Sec, Dr.
Fryer, Mrs. G. B.
Fulton, Dr. Mary.
Hummel, Mr. R. Ure.
Lee, Dr. T. H.
Parker, Dr. A. P.
Richard, Miss E. I.
White-Cooper, Mr. A. S. P.
Woodbridge, Dr. S. I.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

1916-1917

UBLICITY has characterized the work of our Institution during the year just closed. Over 6,000 people have personally seen the School itself or have attended one of the various entertainments that have been given for the benefit of the Institution by the pupils themselves.

The Chinese provincial Government has also become interested in the movement and made a contribution of \$1,000 to its support, while the Central Government has requested our Superintendent to investigate the work done for the blind and deaf in the industrial and other Institutions in America during his furlough this year, preparing a report for them to be presented on his return. This is all very encouraging to our Committee, and we feel sure that when the admirable work done by our able Superintendent and his wife is fully understood by the Chinese, they will come forward even more generously to help in its support.

A eareful reading of the Superintendent's Report will reveal many interesting features; not least among these is the industrial department of the Institution. The pupils are diligently taught several trades, and it is hoped that the study of agriculture and poultry raising will begin when further equipment can be secured. To see blind boys carn a livelihood is a new development in China; and will commend itself to the matter-of-faet Chinese who respect those who ean earn a living. The blind in China (and not long since in Europe and America too) have been considered worse than uscless. Certainly we can thank the generous donor of the fund, for making sueli an Institution possible in China. These are small beginnings now, but there is promise of greater things. The tens of thousands of sightless people now living in hopeless and helpless despair cannot all be reached at once, but the beneficence of Dr. John Fryer gives promise of a better day for the blind of China. "You have taught our fingers to see," said one of the bright boys at this Sehool. We firmly believe that the time will come when the Chinese will fully realize that the blind can be made happy; and that their nimble fingers, doubly effective through the loss of another sense, will ply useful and remunerative trades to the benefit of all. Our aim is not only to make the Institution for the Chinese Blind in Shanghai useful in itself; but also to serve as a model for other institutions of this character in China.

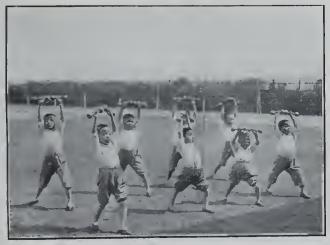
Our Committee is looking for the early dawn of the new day for the thousands of unfortunates now groping helplessly in the dark; and enter upon the work of another year with determined purpose and renewed hope.

S. ISETT WOODBRIDGE,

Chairman.



DUMB-BELL RACE



AGES SEEM TO TWELVE



PULLING THE ROLLER



OUR FIRST ORDER

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

April 30, 1917.

NOTABLE feature during the year just passed, has been an effort to bring our work before the notice of as many people as possible, having in mind three ideas; first, to show the general public the result of a few

years training, in order to give them some ideas of the possibilities of the future; *second*, to raise much needed funds for the carrying on of our enterprise; and *third*, to bring the question of the education of the Chinese blind before the notice of the Government, hoping that they would see the necessity of caring for and educating the blind from a humanitarian as well as from an economic standpoint.

The results of the first have been beyond our expectations, as over six thousand have personally either visited the school itself or one of the many entertainments given by the pupils themselves in different parts of the city, throughout the year, illustrating the work in all its departments. Many more have read with much interest the various articles, which have appeared from time to time, in the newspapers and magazines. In regard to the financial side; while we have done remarkably well, we are over a thousand tacls behind in the estimated amount which we had hoped to obtain in order to make this year a financial success, and to make several necessary improvements. I trust we shall be able to raise this amount during the next few months, so that we shall not have to lose any of the ground we have so labouriously though willingly conquered.

Both the provincial and central governments have shown interest, the former sending us \$1000.00 towards our expenses with a letter of approbation; while the central government has sent a letter thanking me for my interest in China's blind and deaf, and asking me to investigate what America is doing for her blind and deaf, during my proposed visit to that country in the near future, writing a report for them on my return with suggestions as to what China could do in regard to establishing

schools and other centres, where the blind and deaf of this country might be raised to their rightful place as respectable citizens.

Things move slowly in this part of the world, but when once started are sure of a bright and useful future.

During the year we have had thirty-one pupils on the register. One died suddenly last September, making thirty students at the close of the year, showing an increase of eight. Of these, sixteen are from Kiangsn, eleven from Chekiang, two from Kwantung, one from Shantung, and one from Moukden. The age limit is decreasing, as we do not take any now, who are over fourteen. Our average is sixteen, as we have eight pupils twenty years of age or over, although we have eight, twelve or under. This seems high but the Chinese usually add a year or two to their age, so that in reality our average age is about fourteen.

Health The health of both teachers and pupils has been unusually good, as the physician's report will show.

The work of all departments has been carried out successfully. We have an additional teacher for the literary work which has increased, owing to a greater number of classes.

We have probably made more progress in Literary this department than in any other as our policy is to let all pupils have at least four years literary work, before deciding what their life work will probably be. The course is practically identical with that of the public schools for the seeing. During the year we have had one in the sophomore year at St. John's University; one in the third year preparatory of the same institution; seven in the fourth year; seven in the third year; four in the second year and twelve in the first year, primary. The work is all in Mandarin, with the exception of a few who are starting to learn English. Two more have learned to use the Remington Typewriter so that now we have four who can write. We have started a flourishing debating society which has a debate once a week. Great interest is manifested and it has already done a great amount of good.



PYRAMID BUILDING



A Pyramid



THE FIRE ESCAPE



WAND DRILL



JUMPING OVER THE HORSE

Music

Much progress has been made in singing, especially in part songs and anthems. Several good voices have been discovered which show promise in the future. Visitors to the school and at our entertainments have especially commented on the singing, which they say is truer than any they have previously listened to in other schools for Chinese. At one of our entertainments we attempted our first songs in English with marked success. Eleven have had instruction on the organ and some of the older ones are getting the necessary spirit and play with more feeling. We have now a drum and fife band, but so far have learned only three pieces. Progress has been made in the use of Chinese instruments, which of course pleases our Chinese friends.

Physical

This work is much enjoyed by the boys and is a means of keeping them in good health.

All have an hour's work five times a week besides the setting up exercises every morning. Even the smallest now have their regular time and a keen interest is manifested.

We are badly in need of some more playground and other apparatus. A hundred dollars would go a long way in making a beginning and prevent a lot of aimless wandering around during recreation hours.

This department is naturally in its infancy Industrial and all work so far has been more educational than vocational in its ideas. We have managed to pay our expenses and have more stock and supplies on hand than last year. In all we have sold over six hundred baskets and reseated twelve chairs, taking in over three hundred dollars, which has more than paid for the eost of supplies and materials. After next year we ought to have an industrial workshop, so that those who have completed the four years preparatory work and have no ability to continue in their studies, may be able to give all of their time to this work and thereby earn their living. Not only would it assist those we have, but we could then help many who become blind after school age and are helpless. In Shanghai from one hospital alone, there are about two hundred blind persons over eighteen years of age, who are turned out to become beggars or eke out a miserable existence at the expense of friends or charitable organizations.

Visitors We have had an increasing number of visitors, both Chinese and Foreign, during the year, and all were intensely interested in what they saw. Many schools have attended in a body, which has made it possible to prepare programmes for them. We have had representatives from the provincial as well as the central Boards of Education.

Publicity

For the last few months Mr. P. K. Chu has been engaged to make the Institution better known among the officials and gentry. He has also collected what money he could towards our expenses. He has been instrumental in bringing our work before many influential people besides obtaining a thousand dollars from the provincial government, which we trust will become an annual grant.

We have given exhibitions of our work in the following places:

Place	Andience	No. Present.
World's Chinese Students Federation.	Chinese	300
Fuh Tan College	Chinese	250
Medhurst College	Chinese	500
Olympic Theatre	Mixed	1000
Y. M. C. A. School	Chinese	600
Anglo Chinesc Sunday-School	Chinese	200
South Gate School	Chinese	300
Am. Woman's Club Ent. Martyr's	Foreign	
Mem. Hall	Torcigii	500

Several articles have been written by Mr. Chu and myself for various magazines and newspapers. I have also written an article on the Education of the Chinese Blind, for the Educational Directory.

Seven hundred and fifty English and the same number of Chinese copies of the fourth annual report were printed and distributed as widely as possible.

Two thousand copies of the pamphlet "A BLIND SCHOOL THAT IS NOT BLIND" were printed and have been sent to various parts of China and America.

Needs The needs of the Institution grow as rapidly as the work. We need:—

A larger endowment. Having to collect such a large amount each year takes time and energy that could be put to other uses.

More land next to us while it is cheap. It has already risen nearly a hundred per cent since we bought ours.

More equipment especially for Gymnasium work and the playground. We also need more supplies for the industrial department as well as school work. We are very short in these necessaries.

The school building needs revarnishing and white-washing.

We also need an Industrial Workshop, and a Kindergarten building besides a Gymnasium.

We are badly in need of a new organ, for the assembly room. The one at present in use is private property, and the large demand upon it does not tend to improve the instrument.

Acknowledgements

The time, money and thought that has been donated to the Institution this year is almost impossible to enumerate. We wish, however, to especially thank those who assisted to make our various entertainments such a success, and Mr. R. D. Stafford for so kindly auditing our books. The interest manifested in this much needed work is not waning and we wish to express our deep appreciation to one and all who have given their timely and unstinted assistance.

It is, however, necessary to acknowledge receipt of donations in moncy, that have been received. Some have given gifts for a specific purpose and have been included under another heading.

St. Mary's Hall, Jes	ssfield					\$ 10.00
Mr. O. Ben						5.00
Mr. John Ely						40.00
Dr. Mary Fulton						10.00
Dr. Fong F. Sec						20.00
Mr. John Duff, Kiu	kiang				• •	00.01
St. John's Thanksg	iving (	Collect	ion			218.29
Misses Burdick and	West					15.00
A Visitor				• •		5.00

A Friend			\$	2.45
do				2.00
West Gate Sunday School				2.35
Endeavorers Sunday School			2	5.00
Y. M. C. A. School per Mr. Zia				0.00
Anglo-Chinese Sunday School				7.00
Girls of McTyiere High School				0.00
A Friend on Tram car				1.00
Miss E. I. Richard				0.00
Rev. Edward Evans				
A Friend per Mr. Vanderbeek				0.00
Medhurst College Entertainment		• •		0.00
Mr. G	• •	• •		3.55
Union Church Ladies Society	• •	• •		5.00
Mr. Peh	• •	• •		0.00
South Gate Entertainment	• •	• •		0.00
Mr. Viloudaki	• •	• •	77	.94
Yangchow Church Easter Offering	• •	• •	10	.00
Dr. Chang	• •	• •	5	.00
Olympic Theatre Entertainment (nett)	• •	• •	10	.00
American Woman's Club Entertainment	• •	• •	1343	.63
Donation from Provincial Government		• •	339	.50
Mr. M. Shimazee	• •	• •	1000.	.00
Mr. R. Van der Wonde	• •	• •	100.	00
Mrs. F. C. Cooper	• •	• •	50.	
Mr. C. H. Blake	• •	· · Tael	s 20.	00
Mr. Tang Shao Ve	• •	• •	50.	00
Miss Andrews	• •	• •	500.	00
Mr. Henning	• •		20.0	00
Mrs. Evan Morgan has at	• •	· · G.	\$ 5.0	00

Mrs. Evan Morgan has given part support of a boy during the year, from friends in England. This costs \$50.00 a year and is a very convenient and helpful way of giving a donation. We have twenty-five boys in need of help of this kind, and many seem to prefer to have their money go towards a definite object.

GEORGE B. FRYER,

Superintendent.

#### REPORT OF THE PHYSICIAN

Shanghai, May 7th, 1917.

My report upon the health of the school during the past twelve months is short and satisfactory. At a time when an epidemie of searlet fever is eausing considerable anxiety in both foreign and native communities it is cause for thankfulness that the Institution has so far escaped. Nor has any other infectious disease invaded the cleanly surroundings of the boys in their dwelling.

There has been one death—that of little Ding-sing, who passed away suddenly one morning in September from an unsuspected brain lesion.

The general health of the boys has been good. Slight ailments, such as are common among all collections of children, have called for Mrs. Fryer's motherly care, in some cases perhaps oftener than was really necessary, every little ache and pain having to receive some sort of attention.

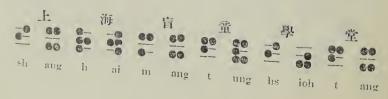
A. G. PARROTT.

# THE MANDARIN BRAILLE CODE (UNION SYSTEM)



The black dots represent the raised points of the signs, the dashes serve to show their position in the group of six—which is the basis of the Braille system.

The sentence below shows how the signs are combined to form words.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

HE Iustitution was founded by Dr. John Fryer in 1911, and was opened for instruction in November, 1912. It is supported by an endowment made by the Founder, but donations and legacies from those interested in the growth of the school will be gratefully received by the Treasurer or Superintendent.

The Institution removed to its new buildings, No. 4 Edin-

burgh Road, in October, 1915. They are about a mile beyond the terminus of the Bubbling Well Tram Line, between Brenuan and Kinnear Roads.

The Institution is a school for the instruction of Chinese boys and girls who happen to be blind or to have very defective evesight. For the present we are forced to give all of our attention to boys, but when circumstances and funds permit, we will be able to take girls as well.

No rate has been fixed for tuition, but all pupils who have families or friends are expected to pay \$50.00 a year for board, supplies and extras. There is a fund provided whereby a limited number of destitute children may be taken free, or will assist those who are unable to pay the full amount.

All pupils should return to their homes during the summer holidays. If, however, it is impossible for them to do so, they may remain in the Institution on payment of \$5.00 per month for board and care.

The Institution does not supply clothing except in destitute cases, and cannot assume the permanent care of any one. It is a school and not a home, and all who are unable to keep up with their classes must return to their homes.

The Institution aims to train as well as to teach and as much care and attention is given the pupils when out of class as when in class.

The course of instruction aims to be thorough and broad. It embraces the branches usually taught in the public and missionary schools, and several that are not taught there, such

as typewriting, household and industrial pursuits, organ and vocal music.

Special attention is paid to physical exercises and drill and to the building up of their bodies.

The age limit for admission is fixed between seven and fourteen except in special cases. Candidates for admittance must be able to dress and take care of themselves, and be free from skin or other contagious diseases. They must also be capable of instruction and of a good moral character.

The Institution is undenominational. The Bible is taught and Christian worship is held every day, but any child may be excused from attendance upon a written request from parent or guardian.

Persons desiring to visit the Institution, or to inquire into the method or system of instruction are cordially invited to do so—all communications should be addressed to the Superintendent. Application for admission forms in English or Chinese will be sent on request.

The Institution undertakes to furnish copies of the Union Braille Primer and Reader and such portions of the Scripture as are already embossed, also manuscript Braille copies of the Practical National Readers for Chinese Primary Schools as published by the Commercial Press. Any other text or reading book in English or Chinese we will be glad to put into American or Chinese Braille on receipt of a copy of the book. It also wishes to furnish supplies for the schools in China. This department is not in working order as yet but in the near future hopes to keep a stock of the necessary supplies.

# Institution for the Chinese Blind.

BALANCE SHERT-APRIL 30TH, 1917.

TIS.	1,641.88	313.8S 60.66 1,147.37	307.32 310.00 18.69	932.41	38,600.00 17.27 752.51
TIS.	8,449.(,0 11,711.57 10,430,81	70,39	1	23,100.00	15,500.00 3
Land: Cost of B. C. Lot 8,529, Edinburg Road, including raising of land and development raising of land and Less Donation from Dr. John Fryer towards mirchas, ed. o.	Buildings: Cost of Buildings to date.  Less amount provided by In Iding Fund Fixtures and Fittings, including Electric	Equipment Supplies: (Industrial) (School)	Sundry Debons		(nexpired Insurance: Fremium paid in advance,
T1s.	61.33				118, 45,582.75
Trls. 45,988.09 666,67 28.00	53.33				
Capital Account: Endowment Fund 45,988,09 Less adjustment in value of Securities Standry Creditors: Amount due for Electricity, January 12th to April 30th, 1917 Medical Pees: January 1st to April 30th,				Shanghai, May 14th, 1917.	Andited and found correct (Signed) R. D. STARFORD

(Signed) R. URE HUMMEL, Ilon, TREASURER, Andited and found correct (Signed) R. D. STAFFORD May 21st, 1917.

Tls. 45,382.75

# Institution for the Chinese Blind.

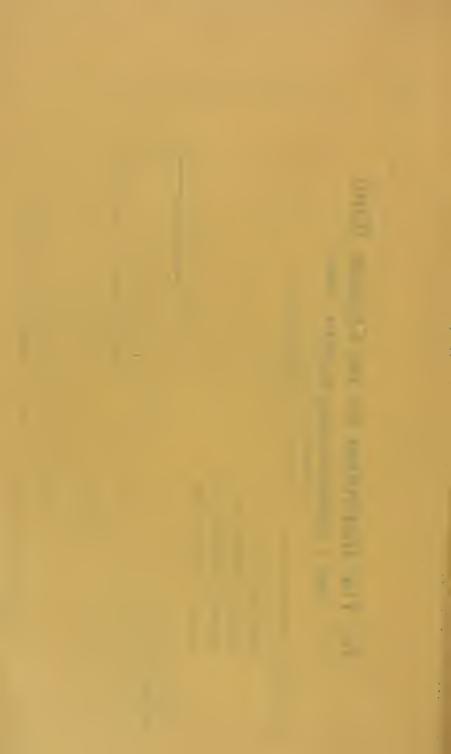
WORKING ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING APRIL, 30TH, 1917.

INCOME	Tis.	EXPENDITURE	Tls.	Tls.	
By Income from Investments and Bank Interest	2,240.40	To Salaries and Wages		3,710.63	
Donations and Subscriptions	3,343.25	" Medical Fees		100.00	
Proceeds of Athletic Entertaiment and sale of		". Expenses Board and Tuition	554.12		
garden produce	13.50	". Less Receipts from pupils for ditto	398.75	155.37	
,, Balance (Loss)	752.51	", Legal Expenses		4.03	
	-	", House Supplies		124.94	
		,, Water		43.32	
		", Light and Fuel		118.05	
		", Printing and Postages		390.12	
		" Clothing		2.74	
		" Medicine		25.14	
		", Fire Insurance		57.84	
		", Rates, Taxes, Electricity and General			
		Charges		468.66	
		, Balance (loss) brought forward from			
		last Working Account 1915-1916		1,148.82	
		.4			
TI	Tls. 6,349.66	Shanghai, 14th May, 1917.	Ţ	Tls. 6,349.66	

# To The Institution for the Chinese Blind NO. 4, EDINBURGH ROAD, SHANGHAI, CHINA

I have pleasure in assisting the above Institution in the following manner:-

				Total			(Please state whether Mr., Mrs., Miss, etc.)	
					value			
:	:	:	:					
Annual Subscription	Donation to General Fund	Donation to Endowment Fund	Donation to Building Fund		please find	(Name)		(Address)
					-			



# VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT OLYMPIC THEATRE

January 1st, 1917. 3 p.m.

# **PROGRAMME**

#### PART I

<ol> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>	(a) Chorus ("All Hail") - Institution Chorus. (b) Song ("Patter of the Rain Drops") Six Juniors. Opening Address, Mr. Tong Shao Yi. Song ("We Meet Again To-night, St. Johns University Glee Club
4.	Dumb-bell Drill Sity Glee Club.
5.	Vocal Solo, Serenade, Schubert Dr. S. E. Chiu.
6.	"Just like our big Brothers." - Four Kinder-
7.	Sleight of Hand Mr. S. C. Li.
8.	"Song of the Vikings." - Shanghai Chinese Glee Club.
	PART II
1.	Playlette, A Blind Man's Experience - In Two Scenes.  Scene I. A School room. Scene II. A Workshop.
	CHARACTERS
	Blind Fortune Teller { Mr. Chang Wen-hui. (Chang Bei-sung)
	Father of Small Boy Mr. Lan Ting-mei.
	Small Boy (Age 7) Tsang Tsang-hsioh.
	Teacher Mr. Ho Tze-chien.
	School Children, etc Pufils.
2.	"Good Night, Good Night, Beloved "Shanghai Chinese Glee Club.
3.	Recitation, "A Musical Neighbour- { Miss Tsar hood." Sieu Yüen.
4.	"A Little Harmony," $ \begin{cases} \textit{Messrs. David U.K.} \\ \textit{Eu, Z.W. Faung,} \\ \textit{S.K. Toong, and} \\ \textit{K. H. Yang.} \end{cases} $

5. Piano Solo. Selected - - Miss 1'. 7. See.

## VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT

BY THE PUPILS OF THE

# INSTITUTION FOR THE CHINESE BLIND

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

### THE AMERICAN WOMAN'S CLUB

January 16th, 1917.

## **PROGRAMME**

#### PART I

1.	Chorus-" All Hail" Institution Chorus
2.	Dumb Bell Drill.
3.	Recitation.
4.	Demonstration of Reading, etc.
5.	"Nowell" Solo, Instruments
6.	"Just Like Big Brothers." - \ Four Kinder- garteners
7.	School Song Institution Chorus
8.	Greetings from the Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind. Pittsburg, U.S.A Dr. John Brashear
	Titisbuig, O.D.A.
	PART II
1.	Gymnastic Exercises.
	Trio-"The Beacon Light]" Three Teachers.
	Flute, Violin, and Piano
3.	Dialogue in Costume—" Red Riding   Three Boys.
1.	
5.	Chorus—"Swanee River" Institution Chorus
5.	Reading.
7	Tumbling and Pyramids.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

# THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND IN CHINA\*

GEORGE B. FRYER.

N making a brief sketch of what is being done for the education of the blind in China, it will be interesting to divide the subject into three parts; their condition without the advent of foreign influence; the results of Western and Christian influence; the future possibilities.

(1) The condition of the blind without the advent of foreign influence.

Histories and other records are very meagre in their account of the condition and doings of the blind. We can only find out about them by references made to them in connection with other items.

At the time of Confucius, when China enjoyed a period of prosperity, the blind were engaged as musicians, because of their keen sense of hearing, many of the higher officials having as many as two or three hundred among their followers, who furnished music when required. Confucius himself showed consideration for the blind which is emphasized by the following extract. "The Music-Master, Mien, having called upon him, when they came to the steps, the Master said, 'Here are the steps.' When they came to the mat for the guest to sit upon, he said, 'Here is the mat.' When all were seated, the Master informed him, saying, 'So and so is here; so and so is here.' The Music Master Mien having gone out, Tsze-chang asked saying, 'Is it the rule to tell those things to the Music Master?' The Master said, 'Yes'. This is certainly the rule for those who lead the blind.''

The blind evidently lost prestige during the reign of Shih Hwangti, notwithstanding one of the old books was saved from being entirely lost through a man, toothless and almost blind with age, being able to repeat it word for word, and nothing is heard of them until the Sung Dynasty, when it is said they learned to sing songs accompanied by a kind of guitar,

<sup>\*</sup> Reprinted from the Educational Directory, 1917.

and also to tell fortunes by a sort of phrenology, by necromancy and other means, which is continued until the present day. They have been looked upon as worthless individuals incapable of helping themselves except by superstition and fraud. The blind have been looked upon as almost social outcasts, and blindness is supposed by some to be a misfortune brought about as a result of sin either of self or parents. Any assistance given to such is not a meritorious act.

The Chinese, it is true, have a great sense of family feeling, and the support of a blind relative is taken on as a matter of course by the already overburdened wage earners. In destitute cases, however, the philanthropically minded Chinese have allowed the boys and men the use of the local benevolent societies' buildings, where they are cared for, taught to sing immoral songs, tell fortunes, or to do such menial work as they are capable of. Their lives are truly wretched and one wonders what their ignorant minds are dwelling on during their long weary hours of enforced idleness and darkness. One does meet with individual cases who have made their mark, especially in fortune telling, one in Shanghai takes in about \$1,000 a month. This is, however, very rare.

Ignorance, superstition, prejudice and poverty still keeps China's million or more blind practically social outcasts, besides being a great drag upon their friends, and a great hinderance to the economic welfare of the people.

The lot of blind girls is extremely pitiable, many are put to death in infancy, others are kept at home shut up in a room, or sold as slaves for immoral purposes.

Many are beggars on the street and are supported by a mistaken philanthropy of passers by.

(2) The condition of the blind after the influence of Western and Christian influences.

The first work done for the blind by foreigners in China was by Dr. Gutzlaff, who rescued six blind girls in Canton. Two were sent to the Institution for the Blind in Philadelphia, where they still are, and four to England. One subsequently returned to China and assisted in Mission work in Ningpo, but was unable to do much for the blind on account of not knowing the Chinese language and customs.

In 1845-8, Mr. Syle of the Church Missionary Society started a small workshop for indigent adult blind, with the proceeds of collections from the Sunday morning services held in the British Consulate. This work still continues in the Native city, and ten or so blind men receive a kind of pension, and in return roll straw into string and listen to the Gospel which is preached to them by their teacher twice a day.

During the past forty years Missionaries have been doing what they could, with a great deal of self sacrifice. At first the main object was to teach them to read the Bible and to do such industrial work as they were able to, in order to make them partially self supporting, besides showing those interested that the blind could be taught. Some of these schools have weathered many storms and are now branching out along modern lines by introducing as broad a curriculum as their limited funds will permit. Some have established industrial homes where their graduates and older pupils, both men and women, are taught to make baskets, blinds, matting weaving and knitting. A ready sale is found for these articles and the proceeds go a great way toward the expenses of the home. When possible the graduates have been taught to be teachers, organists and Bible workers and many now hold responsible positions in Mission Schools and hospitals.

As nearly all of these schools have been started under different auspices and in different provinces, unity has been lacking. At first each missionary devised his or her own system of Chinese Braille and followed such lines as his strength, time, ability and funds would allow. A few of the newer schools have adopted systems already in use, but even now we have twelve or more schools using seven different systems and methods. If it were only possible to unify the work, an infinite amount of time and labour would be saved; but, until China adopts a National dialect such union will be impossible. The schools in Central China have however adopted a Union System and are following as closely as possible along the same lines. It would be a great step forward if all schools could see their way to teach their pupils this system in addition to their own, if need be, in order to be able to avail themselves of the use of text-books and other literature being prepared in this system.

Previous copies of this Educational Directory have printed accounts of the existing institutions and their work, so that I shall confine myself to the one founded most recently, and with which I am most familiar—The Institution for the Chinese Blind at Shanghai.

This institution was founded about five years ago and now owns its own grounds and buildings, having also an endowment of nearly three thousand tacls a year.

Its main object is to train teachers, both blind and sighted, giving them a practical normal course which will enable them to teach in other blind schools, which it is hoped the Chinese Government will open in the near future. As there are no blind young men ready for such a course, and also that they may have a model in which they may receive instruction in teaching, a regular school has been opened starting with the kindergarten and continuing through the university. Dr. Pott of St. John's University kindly allows our advanced pupils to receive instruction in the preparatory department as well as in the university itself. At present we have one boy in the third year preparatory and one in the sophomore in the university.

We have a normal course of nine seeing and blind men who are having special instruction in teaching the blind. Most of these are for our own use, but we can supply other institutions if necessary. One feature of the class is that all those who can see are blindfolded, thus helping them to appreciate the difficulties of their pupils, and to be able to get down to the level of those they are to teach.

After passing through the kindergarten, all pupils spend four years in a thorough grounding in the lower primary work, which is as far as we have gone at present, where there are four departments: Literary, Musical, Industrial and Physical.

In the literary department they learn to read and write Chinese Braille with proficiency, having by this time completed the first eight books of the Practical National Readers. Have mental arithmetic through the first stages of fractions, have a general knowledge of the Geography of the world, the various elementary sciences, ethics and Chinese History. Those who show special ability are taught English during the third and fourth year, and the use of the Remington Typewriter.

In the musical department they have singing, organ, violin, drum and fife, besides several Chinese instruments. They have chorus work, singing part songs, hymns and anthems, and at the end of four years should be able to take their turn at the organ for morning and evening prayers, including the voluntary.

In the industrial department we have during the four years the usual kindergarten and primary hand work, and they should be able to make five different shapes of baskets without any help, roll string, make bead models, and sew on their own buttons and patch their own clothes.

In the physical department they learn to have complete control of their muscles and to gain confidence in their own powers by running, tumbling, gymnasium work, etc.

They also have a certain amount of domestic work, make their own beds, sweep and dust their rooms, and assist in keeping their class rooms clean and tidy.

We also have a flourishing debating society, which has a debate once a week, and a monthly variety entertainment arranged entirely by the pupils assisted by the teachers.

There are now twenty-eight blind pupils besides the eight teachers in training.

The Institution creates no little interest among Chinese and foreigners alike. We have given many exhibitions of our work at the institution itself, and at other places, having from a score or more to nearly a thousand interested and spell-bound spectators each time.

Work among the blind in China is bound to grow and as soon as the Government sets its house in order should go ahead by leaps and bounds. In this vicinity officials recognize the needs of such institutions and last year the Provincial Government sent a donation of \$1,000.00, with a promise of more each year if possible, in recognition of the usefulness of the work. The governor of this province has asked for a minute report of the work for the blind in other countries, especially America, with suggestions as to the course possible for China to follow in regard to this most important work.

Apart from this, the government has done practically nothing officially; several officials have assisted in the shape of donations, some of the existing schools, and in Nan Tungchow a school for the Blind and Deaf was started but so far has but little to report. They have had eleven seeing teachers taking a so called normal course but at the end of a year were sent home with a large diploma, but with no practical knowledge, and with no prospects of employment along their special line. The school has now resorted into a home where blind, deaf and crippled waifs are taken care of as a charity with little or no regular instruction. One of the teachers who has been taking special work with us for the past few months, expects to return in the Autumn and assist in establishing a school for the blind there.

## Future Prospects.

What then are the needs for the work among the blind in China:—

- 1. A general and serious appreciation of the need of the work by every man, woman and child in China, which can only be brought about by education in all its ramifications.
- 2. A willingness to put aside prejudice, superstition and doubt, and receive the blind as social equals.
- 3. A thorough enquiry into the number of blind in each province, the causes of their blindness, their financial condition and present status.
- 4. A union of all the existing schools in methods and systems. Mandarin should be taught in all the schools and the Union system of Braille adopted in addition to the one best suited for their district, for all who expect to become teachers or take advanced work.
- 5. Societies and Associations inaugurated to relieve the present pitiable condition of the blind, and to devise means for the prevention of blindness, and pensioning the aged and infirm; to carry on the work of educating blind minors, and to establish means of work for adults either at their own homes or in industrial homes or workshops.

If these preliminary ideas are put into effect there is no reason why China should not lead the world in the education

and care of its blind. Having nearly a hundred years of experience of other countries, China should start at the high water mark other schools have attained, and with the help of returned students and others in authority, nearly eliminate blindness among the next generation, besides enabling those already blind to lead such lives that will relieve them from their misery and make them respected citizens of this vast Republic. China cannot afford to have these handicapped million drags upon her economic welfare and the sooner she establishes societies and associations for the blind the sooner will she be saved from this millstone around her neck. Let us hope that in the near future we shall see at least one school in each province, where minors can be educated and made independent. and homes and workshops where the adults can live a respectable and honoured existence, helping themselves as well as those less fortunate. It means work; it means hard work, but if we all put our shoulder to the wheel it will be astonishing what a few years will bring forth.

# LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND IN CHINA

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School.	Location. O	Year bened.	No. of Pupils.	Superintendent
Mission to the Chinese Blind	Peking	1874	36 boys } 9 girls }	Mrs. Murray
David Hill School for Blind	Hankow	1888	41 boys 115 girls (	Rev. H. B. Sutton Dr. Mary Niles
Ming Sam School for Blind Ling Gwan Ku Tang Blind Girls' School	Canton Foochow Foochow	1891 1898 1900	16 boys \\ 78 boys \\ 45 girls	Mrs. Geo. Wilkinson Miss Wolfe
Blindenhiem Ind. School Ebenezer School	Kowloon Hongkong	1901 1914	20 girls 45 girls	Miss Moritz Miss Reinche
St. Nicholas Schools for Chi	_ } Moukden	1902	34 girls	Mrs. Turley
nese Blind Girls En Nü Hsioh Hsiad Pentecostal Mission	) Changsha	1908 1909	32 girls 23 girls	Miss Vasel Mrs. Harrison
Institution for the Chinese Blind	Shanghai	1912	28 boys	Mr. G. B. Fryer

A school was opened in Peking by E. G. Hillier, Esq., on March 18th, 1917, in a house lent by the Chief of Police. There are already six pupils. In Nan Tungchow a school is being opened with six pupils. In the Southern parts of China several schools have been opened by graduates of the Ming Sam School. In Pang Kei, three girls, Shiu Hing, thirty-six girls; Kwai Peng, fifteen girls, Tungshan, eleven girls; Sainam seven girls and a few in Tak Hing.

Many Missionaries have a few blind among their Church members whom they are teaching to read and to work.

